

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Compositions and methods are disclosed for treating a condition characterized by activation of an inflammatory cytokine cascade in a patient. The compositions comprise an HMGB A box and an inhibitor of TNF biological activity, or an antibody  
5 that binds an HMGB polypeptide or biologically active fragment thereof and an inhibitor of TNF biological activity. The methods comprise treating a cell or a patient with sufficient amounts of the composition to inhibit the release of the proinflammatory cytokine, or to inhibit the inflammatory cytokine cascade.